

 PALM Intranet

Application Number

IDS Flag Clearance for Application 10700539

**IDS**  
Information

Content	Mailroom Date	Entry Number	IDS Review	Last Modified	Reviewer
<input type="button" value="Update"/>					

## Refine Search

Your wildcard search against 10000 terms has yielded the results below.

***Your result set for the last L# is incomplete.***

The probable cause is use of unlimited truncation. Revise your search strategy to use limited truncation.

### Search Results -

Terms	Documents
L23 and ((track\$ or monitor\$ or follow\$) with speed\$) and (downshift\$ same brak\$)	3

Database:

US Pre-Grant Publication Full-Text Database  
 US Patents Full-Text Database  
 US OCR Full-Text Database  
 EPO Abstracts Database  
 JPO Abstracts Database  
 Derwent World Patents Index  
 IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletins

Search:

L27

Refine Search

Recall Text

Clear

Interrupt

### Search History

DATE: Monday, July 10, 2006   [Printable Copy](#)   [Create Case](#)

<u>Set</u> <u>Name</u>	<u>Query</u>	<u>Hit</u> <u>Count</u>	<u>Set</u> <u>Name</u> result set
side by side			
DB=PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB,DWPI,TDBD; THES=ASSIGNEE; PLUR=YES; OP=OR			
<u>L27</u>	L23 and ((track\$ or monitor\$ or follow\$) with speed\$) and (downshift\$ same brak\$)	3	<u>L27</u>
<u>L26</u>	L23 and (track\$ with speed\$) and (downshift\$ same brak\$)	0	<u>L26</u>
<u>L25</u>	L23 and (track\$ with speed\$) and ((accelerat\$ or decelerat\$)) and (downshift\$ same brak\$)	0	<u>L25</u>
<u>L24</u>	L23 and (track\$ with speed\$) and ((accelerat\$ or decelerat\$) and pedal\$) and (downshift\$ same brak\$)	0	<u>L24</u>
<u>L23</u>	l19 or l20 or l21 or l22	67	<u>L23</u>
<u>L22</u>	('6832147' '6236929' '6360156' '6411882')[URPN]	12	<u>L22</u>
DB=USPT; THES=ASSIGNEE; PLUR=YES; OP=OR			

(6078859 | 5957991 | 5673668 | 5685801 | 4169437 | 6259983 | 5154250 |  
 6017290 | 5400865 | 6304809 | 5216915 | 6104976 | 4849892 | 6073509 |  
 6078860 | 6220987 | 5284116 | 6279531 | 5129475 | 5507705 | 5752211 |  
L21 5099941 | 5478293 | 5978726 | 5394954 | 6278915 | 6125321 | 6208929 | 47 L21  
 5365436 | 5778331 | 5123397 | 6023647 | 0037793 | 5608626 | 6141618 |  
 5484350 | 6295500 | 6067495 | 4819163 | 5243526 | 4615316 | 4896267 |  
 6178371 | 6298300 | 5245542 | 5501109 | 4870584)! [PN]

*DB=PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB,DWPI,TDBD; THES=ASSIGNEE; PLUR=YES;  
 OP=OR*

L20 ('6832147' | '6236929' | '6360156' | '6411882') [ABPN1,NRPN,PN,TBAN,WKU] 8 L20

L19 L3 or 701/95,96.ccls 4 L19

*DB=PGPB,USPT; THES=ASSIGNEE; PLUR=YES; OP=OR*

L18 L12 and (accelerat\$ and pedal\$) 2 L18

L17 L12 and brak\$ 4 L17

L16 L15 and monitor\$ 0 L16

L15 L14 and (track\$ with speed\$) 1 L15

L14 L12 and (compar\$ with torque\$) 1 L14

L13 L12 and torque\$ 3 L13

L12 6374173.pn. or 20020177935 or 4870583.pn. or 5758306.pn. 4 L12

*DB=PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB,DWPI,TDBD; THES=ASSIGNEE; PLUR=YES;  
 OP=OR*

L11 L10 and shift\$ 13 L11

L10 L9 and down\$ 23 L10

L9 L6 or L7 41 L9

L8 L6 and L7 34 L8

L7 L5 and @ad<=20021106 41 L7

L6 L5 and @pd<=20021106 34 L6

L5 L1 AND (track\$ with speed) 66 L5

L4 L3 AND (track\$ with speed) 0 L4

L3 L1 AND L2 4 L3

L2 (477/110).CCLS. 435 L2

L1 (701/93).CCLS. 792 L1

END OF SEARCH HISTORY

## Hit List

**First Hit**

Your wildcard search against 10000 terms has yielded the results below.

***Your result set for the last L# is incomplete.***

The probable cause is use of unlimited truncation. Revise your search strategy to use limited truncation.

[Clear](#)[Generate Collection](#)[Print](#)[Fwd Refs](#)[Bkwd Refs](#)[Generate OACS](#)

**Search Results** - Record(s) 1 through 3 of 3 returned.

☐ 1. Document ID: US 5778331 A

L27: Entry 1 of 3

File: USPT

Jul 7, 1998

US-PAT-NO: [5778331](#)

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5778331 A

TITLE: Kickdown delay in cruise control for automatic transmission

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Attachment	Claims	KWIC	Draw. De
------	-------	----------	-------	--------	----------------	------	-----------	----------	------------	--------	------	----------

☐ 2. Document ID: US 5685801 A

L27: Entry 2 of 3

File: USPT

Nov 11, 1997

US-PAT-NO: [5685801](#)

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5685801 A

TITLE: Cruise control overspeed reduction with automatic transmission

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Attachment	Claims	KWIC	Draw. De
------	-------	----------	-------	--------	----------------	------	-----------	----------	------------	--------	------	----------

☐ 3. Document ID: US 5484350 A

L27: Entry 3 of 3

File: USPT

Jan 16, 1996

US-PAT-NO: [5484350](#)

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5484350 A

TITLE: Control system for vehicle automatic transmission

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Attachment	Claims	KWIC	Draw. De
------	-------	----------	-------	--------	----------------	------	-----------	----------	------------	--------	------	----------

[Clear](#)[Generate Collection](#)[Print](#)[Fwd Refs](#)[Bkwd Refs](#)[Generate OACS](#)

L23 and ((track\$ or monitor\$ or follow\$) with speed\$) and (downshift\$ same brak\$)
--

3
---

**Display Format:****Change Format**[Previous Page](#)[Next Page](#)[Go to Doc#](#)

[First Hit](#)   [Fwd Refs](#)   [Previous Doc](#)   [Next Doc](#)   [Go to Doc#](#)

☐ [Generate Collection](#)   [Print](#)

L27: Entry 1 of 3

File: USPT

Jul 7, 1998

US-PAT-NO: 5778331

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5778331 A

TITLE: Kickdown delay in cruise control for automatic transmission

DATE-ISSUED: July 7, 1998

## INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Leising; Maurice B.	Clawson	MI		
Benford; Howard L.	Bloomfield Hills	MI		
Dourra; Hans A.	Dearborn Heights	MI		

## ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
Chrysler Corporation	Auburn Hills	MI			02

APPL-NO: 08/663822   [\[PALM\]](#)

DATE FILED: June 14, 1996

INT-CL-ISSUED: [06] G06 G 7/70

US-CL-ISSUED: 701/66; 701/53, 701/58, 701/93, 477/148, 477/149, 477/108

US-CL-CURRENT: 701/66; 477/108, 477/148, 477/149, 701/53, 701/58, 701/93

FIELD-OF-CLASSIFICATION-SEARCH: 364/424.08, 364/424.081, 364/424.082, 364/424.083, 364/424.085, 364/424.041, 364/426.043, 477/108, 477/105, 477/110, 477/107, 477/111, 477/120, 477/65, 477/131, 477/128, 74/335, 74/336R

See application file for complete search history.

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[Search Selected](#)[Search ALL](#)[Clear](#)

PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>4314340</u>	February 1982	Miki et al.	364/424.091
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>4414863</u>	November 1983	Heino	477/63
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>4658929</u>	April 1987	Katou et al.	180/175
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>4709595</u>	December 1987	Hayama	477/108
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>4875391</u>	October 1989	Leising et al.	364/424.08

<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4905545</u>	March 1990	Leising et al.	364/424.08
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4951200</u>	August 1990	Leising et al.	364/424.08
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5051905</u>	September 1991	Yoshida	364/424.082
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5053963</u>	October 1991	Mack	364/424.082
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5393277</u>	February 1995	White et al.	477/108
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5468198</u>	November 1995	Holbrook et al.	477/143
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5669850</u>	September 1997	Dourra et al.	477/108

ART-UNIT: 364

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Louis-Jacques; Jacques H.

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Calcaterra; Mark P.

ABSTRACT:

An interactive cruise control system and method for providing automatic speed control of a vehicle with improved shifting of an automatic transmission. The system and method controls speed of a vehicle equipped with cruise control and minimizes downshifts in an automatic transmission of the vehicle. Vehicle speed is detected and compared with a setpoint speed which is associated with the cruise control system. Transmission gear shifting is determined based on predetermined shift schedule points. Determined transmission gear downshifts are prevented for a kickdown delay period based on vehicle speed loss and the presence of vehicle deceleration. Also provided is an overspeed reduction method for causing a transmission downshift during an overspeed condition with the throttle closed. Further, the system provides hunting prevention between both second gear and third gear as well as between third gear and fourth gear for a four speed automatic transmission.

11 Claims, 11 Drawing figures

[Previous Doc](#)

[Next Doc](#)

[Go to Doc#](#)

[First Hit](#) [Fwd Refs](#)[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)

Generate Collection

Print

L27: Entry 1 of 3

File: USPT

Jul 7, 1998

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5778331 A

TITLE: Kickdown delay in cruise control for automatic transmission

Brief Summary Text (7):

A vehicle is generally equipped with an electronic engine control system for controlling the operation of the engine and drivetrain of the vehicle. The electronic control system includes a microcomputer-based transmission control module capable of receiving and monitoring input signals indicative of various vehicle operating conditions such as engine speed, torque converter turbine speed, vehicle output speed, throttle angle position, brake application, hydraulic pressures, a driver selected gear or operating condition (PRNODDL), engine coolant temperature and/or the ambient air temperature. Based on the information contained in the monitored signals, the controller generates command or control signals for causing actuation of solenoid-actuated valves to regulate the application and release of fluid pressure to and from apply cavities of clutches or frictional elements of the transmission. Accordingly, the controller is typically programmed to execute predetermined shift schedules stored in memory of the controller through appropriate command signals to the solenoid-actuated valves.

Detailed Description Text (30):

The interactive cruise control system 10 further includes an overspeed reduction feature as shown by methodology 200 in FIGS. 8A and 8B. Overspeed reduction methodology 200 operates to provide an automatic downshift of the automatic transmission to increase engine braking during the presence of an overspeed condition while operating the vehicle in cruise control. This advantageously brakes the vehicle to reduce speed so as to bring the vehicle speed to within an acceptable speed range according to the setpoint speed of the cruise control system 10.

[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)



[First Hit](#) [Fwd Refs](#)[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)

Generate Collection

Print

L27: Entry 2 of 3

File: USPT

Nov 11, 1997

US-PAT-NO: 5685801

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5685801 A

TITLE: Cruise control overspeed reduction with automatic transmission

DATE-ISSUED: November 11, 1997

## INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Benford; Howard L.	Bloomfield Hills	MI		
Dourra; Hans A.	Dearborn Heights	MI		
Leising; Maurice B.	Clawson	MI		

## ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
Chrysler Corporation	Auburn Hills	MI			02

APPL-NO: 08/663497 [PALM]

DATE FILED: June 14, 1996

INT-CL-ISSUED: [06] B60 K 41/08

US-CL-ISSUED: 477/108

US-CL-CURRENT: 477/108

FIELD-OF-CLASSIFICATION-SEARCH: 477/108

See application file for complete search history.

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Search Selected

Search ALL

Clear

	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4535865</u>	August 1985	Tanigawa et al.	477/108
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4716789</u>	January 1988	Suzuki	477/108
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4736813</u>	April 1988	Hayamam et al.	477/108
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4875391</u>	October 1989	Leising et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4905545</u>	March 1990	Leising et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4951200</u>	August 1990	Leising et al.	

☐ 4982805      January 1991      Naitou et al.      477/108

ART-UNIT: 352

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Wright; Dirk

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Calcaterra; Mark P.

ABSTRACT:

An interactive cruise control system and method for providing automatic speed control of a vehicle with improved shifting of an automatic transmission. The system and method controls speed of a vehicle equipped with cruise control and minimizes downshifts in an automatic transmission of the vehicle. Vehicle speed is detected and compared with a setpoint speed which is associated with the cruise control system. Transmission gear shifting is determined based on predetermined shift schedule points. Determined transmission gear downshifts are prevented for a kickdown delay period based on vehicle speed loss and the presence of vehicle deceleration. Also provided is an overspeed reduction method for causing a transmission downshift during an overspeed condition with the throttle closed. Further, the system provides hunting prevention between both second gear and third gear as well as between third gear and fourth gear of a four speed automatic transmission.

9 Claims, 11 Drawing figures

[Previous Doc](#)      [Next Doc](#)      [Go to Doc#](#)

[First Hit](#) [Fwd Refs](#)[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)

Generate Collection

Print

L27: Entry 2 of 3

File: USPT

Nov 11, 1997

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5685801 A

TITLE: Cruise control overspeed reduction with automatic transmission

Brief Summary Text (7):

A vehicle is generally equipped with an electronic engine control system for controlling the operation of the engine and drivetrain of the vehicle. The electronic control system includes a microcomputer-based transmission control module capable of receiving and monitoring input signals indicative of various vehicle operating conditions such as engine speed, torque converter turbine speed, output vehicle speed, throttle angle position, brake application, hydraulic pressures, a driver selected gear or operating condition (PRNODDL), engine coolant temperature and/or the ambient air temperature. Based on the information contained in the monitored signals, the controller generates command or control signals for causing actuation of solenoid-actuated valves to regulate the application and release of fluid pressure to and from apply cavities of clutches or frictional elements of the transmission. Accordingly, the controller is typically programmed to execute predetermined shift schedules stored in memory of the controller through appropriate command signals to the solenoid-actuated valves.

Brief Summary Text (16):

To achieve the foregoing objectives, the present invention is an interactive cruise control system and method for providing automatic speed control of a vehicle with improved shifting of an automatic transmission. The system and method controls speed of a vehicle equipped with cruise control and reduces overspeed conditions by downshifting the automatic transmission. Vehicle speed is detected and compared with a setpoint speed which is associated with the cruise control system. The cruise control system determines when the detected vehicle speed exceeds the setpoint speed by an overspeed value and further monitors the position of the throttle of the vehicle and determines if the throttle is in a substantially closed position. A downshift of the automatic transmission is caused when the vehicle speed exceeds the setpoint speed by the overspeed value while the throttle position is substantially closed so as to brake the vehicle to attempt to bring the vehicle speed closer to the setpoint speed.

Detailed Description Text (30):

The interactive cruise control system 10 further includes an overspeed reduction feature as shown by methodology 200 in FIGS. 8A and 8B. Overspeed reduction methodology 200 operates to provide an automatic downshift of the automatic transmission to increase engine braking during the presence of an overspeed condition while operating the vehicle in cruise control. This advantageously brakes the vehicle to reduce speed so as to bring the vehicle speed to within an acceptable speed range according to the setpoint speed of the cruise control system 10.

## CLAIMS:

1. A method of controlling speed of a vehicle equipped with an automatic transmission and cruise speed control, said method comprising the steps of:

storing a setpoint speed associated with the cruise speed control;

detecting speed of the vehicle;

comparing the detected speed of the vehicle with the setpoint speed;

determining when the detected vehicle speed exceeds the setpoint speed by an overspeed value;

monitoring throttle position of the vehicle and determining if a throttle closed condition exists; and

causing a transmission downshift in the automatic transmission when the vehicle speed exceeds the setpoint speed by said overspeed amount while the throttle position is substantially closed so as to brake the vehicle.

4. A method of controlling speed of a vehicle equipped with an automatic transmission and cruise speed control so as to maintain a driver selected setpoint speed by causing engine braking for an overspeed condition, said method comprising the steps of:

storing a setpoint speed associated with the cruise speed control;

detecting speed of the vehicle;

comparing the detected speed of the vehicle with the setpoint speed;

determining when the detected vehicle speed exceeds the setpoint speed by an predetermined overspeed value;

monitoring throttle position of the vehicle and determining if a substantially closed throttle condition exists which is indicative of an attempt to reduce vehicle speed; and

causing a transmission downshift in the automatic transmission when the vehicle speed exceeds the setpoint speed by said overspeed amount while the throttle position is substantially closed so as to brake the vehicle in an attempt to overcome the overspeed condition.

[Previous Doc](#)

[Next Doc](#)

[Go to Doc#](#)

[First Hit](#)   [Fwd Refs](#)   [Previous Doc](#)   [Next Doc](#)   [Go to Doc#](#)  
**End of Result Set**

☐ [Generate Collection](#) [Print](#)

L27: Entry 3 of 3

File: USPT

Jan 16, 1996

US-PAT-NO: 5484350

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5484350 A

TITLE: Control system for vehicle automatic transmission

DATE-ISSUED: January 16, 1996

## INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Ishikawa; Hiroshi	Wako			JP
Furukawa; Hideo	Wako			JP
Shimizu; Masatoshi	Wako			JP
Nakauchi; Norio	Wako			JP

## ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
Honda Giken Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha	Tokyo			JP	03

APPL-NO: 08/295546 [\[PALM\]](#)

DATE FILED: August 25, 1994

## FOREIGN-APPL-PRIORITY-DATA:

COUNTRY	APPL-NO	APPL-DATE
JP	5-238896	August 31, 1993

INT-CL-ISSUED: [06] [F16 H 59/04](#), [F16 H 59/62](#)

US-CL-ISSUED: 477/97; 477/120

US-CL-CURRENT: [477/97](#); [477/120](#)

FIELD-OF-CLASSIFICATION-SEARCH: 477/97, 477/120

See application file for complete search history.

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

<a href="#">Search Selected</a>	<a href="#">Search ALL</a>	<a href="#">Clear</a>
---------------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------

	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">4285252</a>	August 1981	Yamaki et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">4795015</a>	January 1989	Hibino et al.	477/97

<input type="checkbox"/> <u>4943921</u>	July 1990	Baltusis et al.	477/97
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>4947971</u>	August 1990	Tanaka	477/97

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN-PAT-NO	PUBN-DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS
5-17626	March 1993	JP	

ART-UNIT: 352

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Wright; Dirk

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Armstrong, Westerman, Hattori, McLeland &amp; Naughton

## ABSTRACT:

A control system of a vehicle automatic transmission in which an engine load and a vehicle speed are detected and used to determine a vehicle acceleration in accordance with the preestablished characteristics. An actual vehicle acceleration is at the same time calculated in response to the detected vehicle speed. The difference therebetween is then calculated and the calculated value is added to a difference calculated earlier to obtain an average therebetween. Five gear shifting scheduling maps, for example one for moderate hill climbing, one for level-road running, one for steep hill descent, are preestablished and in response to the average obtained, one of the maps is selected. A gear shifting is controlled based on the selected map. The actual vehicle acceleration is corrected by the altitude where the vehicle is traveling so as to compensate for the engine output decrease due to the charging efficiency drop.

5 Claims, 33 Drawing figures

[Previous Doc](#)      [Next Doc](#)      [Go to Doc#](#)

[First Hit](#) [Fwd Refs](#)[Previous Doc](#)[Next Doc](#)[Go to Doc#](#)

End of Result Set



Generate Collection

Print

L27: Entry 3 of 3

File: USPT

Jan 16, 1996

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5484350 A

TITLE: Control system for vehicle automatic transmission

Detailed Description Text (51):

If step S716 determines that the current map (number) is the level-road running map (number), the program passes to step S718 in which the vehicle speed is compared with a prescribed value YKUV1, and if it determines that the current map (number) is not the level-road running map (number), i.e. if it determines that the current map (number) is the moderate hill climbing map (number), the program passes to step S720 in which the vehicle speed is compared with another prescribed value YKUV3. If the vehicle speed is found to be equal to or greater than the prescribed value in either of steps S718 or S720, the program skips to step S712 and map switching is carried out. This will be better understood from FIG. 24. As was explained earlier, the breadth of the third gear range is greater in the maps for hill climbing and descent than in the map for level-road running. As shown specifically in FIG. 24, the boundary vehicle speed for shifting from third gear to fourth gear when the map is changed from that for level-road running to that for moderate hill descent is set as vehicle speed YKUV1. Since there is therefore no possibility of a shift-down when the vehicle speed is equal to or higher than the boundary speed, the program is passed to step S712 for switching maps. On the other hand, if the vehicle speed is found to be below the boundary level, the possibility of a downshifting exists and, therefore, a determination is carried out in the following steps as to whether or not one will. While FIG. 24 relates only to the case of switching from the level-road running map (#2) to the moderate hill descent map (#3), switching from the moderate hill descent map (#3) to the steep hill descent map (#4) is handled in a similar manner.

Detailed Description Text (56):

This is conducted notwithstanding that the driver has applied the brakes and wants to slow down and is for preventing map switching and thus avoiding an abrupt engine braking effect (owing to downshifting) which would otherwise occur at an intensity that increases in proportion to the vehicle speed at the time of the shift-down. Therefore, it is arranged such that more degree of actual deceleration data is required for map switching as the vehicle speed becomes higher. Thus, the map is changed to enable downshifting only when it is determined from the result of the comparison that rapid deceleration is intended. In other words, the braking operation indicates that the driver wants to slow down. At that condition, if the braking suffices the driver's intended deceleration, to conduct shift-down to make the vehicle to further slow down will not meet the driver's intention and hence is avoided. Moreover, downshifting makes the vehicle to travel at a lower gear (i.e., run at a greater gear ratio) than usual and as a result engine speed rises so that the engine becomes noisier. In particular, with the increasing steepness of the downhill vehicle speed rises and engine speed tends to rise. The degree of deceleration data is therefore predetermined taking the vehicle speed and road profile (grade) into account in such a manner that the degree of deceleration data grows with increasing downhill grade and/or with increasing vehicle speed so that the addition of MAPS at step S712 is hard to occur, i.e., switching to the maps for hill descent having the broader low gear region is not likely to occur.